

## RES14-037

Wilmington, Delaware

July 10, 2014

#3967

Sponsors:

Council  
President  
Gregory

Council  
Members  
M. Brown  
Freel

**WHEREAS**, the City Council endeavors to fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities to the administrative departments of the City of Wilmington through the appropriation of funds for various City departments and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is acting responsibly in adopting an annual budget and revisiting annual budget appropriations as necessary, taking into consideration the financial constraints of the City and its residents, and the need to prevent excessive or unnecessary government spending; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council, in an effort to address each of the above mentioned objectives, has begun to undertake a comprehensive spending accountability review of City departments and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council, in an effort to make City government more accountable and transparent for taxpayers, is, based on the findings of the Berkshire Report of 2012, reducing the appropriation for the Wilmington Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the legal uncertainties in the City Charter regarding whether the authority to amend the City's Position Allocation List (PAL) rests as a dual (Administration and/or Council) or a singular (Administration) responsibility, and without abdicating any authority the Council has with regard to the PAL, Council has therefore acted upon its appropriation authority; and

**WHEREAS**, it is City Council's desire to work in harmony with the Administration in reducing the size of City government, increasing the efficiencies of government, and being responsible stewards of taxpayers' dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Council wishes to adhere to the recommendations of the Wilmington Economic and Financial Advisory Council, which, in noting that the City cannot tax its way out of the financial challenges it is facing, has urged a significant reduction of expenditures over the next five years, and absent an influx of new jobs in the City to produce new wage tax revenue, has indicated that the only way for the City to achieve fiscal stability will be to reduce expenses by eliminating positions and possibly programs and services.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that the City Council requests that the Williams Administration support the effort to control government costs and spending and save taxpayer dollars by deleting the eight vacant positions in the Wilmington Fire Department and presenting to Council an Ordinance that reduces the authorized strength of the Wilmington Fire Department by eight positions as depicted in an amended Position Allocation List.

Passed by City Council,  
July 10, 2014

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

Approved as form this 10<sup>th</sup>  
day of July, 2014.

Jay Dhotra  
Assistant City Solicitor